

Shellfish Advisory Board Meeting
December 20th 7PM
Town Hall Basement Conference Room

Board Members in attendance: Ethan Estey (acting chair), Nick Sirucek (acting secretary), Adrien Kmiec, Stephen Pickard, Rebecca Taylor (via Zoom), John Duane (via Zoom), Brad Morse, Damien Parkington (alternate)

Announcements & Public Comment

- D. Estey commented to congratulate the new SAB members appointed by the Select Board
- H. Wilson commented to inform the board and public that the Town Administrator has resigned
- G. Parker commented that new SAB alternate member Chris Merl is unable to attend
- D. Brunt commented on future topics and inquired why the Shellfish Constable was not in attendance. Raised concerns re: Commercial Permit and Annual Report paperwork being processed at Shellfish Department by Town Clerk. Inquired if the SAB would revisit issue of Commercial Permit requirement in the future

Approve Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were not available for the packet. No action taken

Board Reorganization

-Board discussion:

- E. Estey (Vice Chair) commented that he intends to step down as Vice Chair to a regular member
- N. Sirucek suggested that Ethan or Rebecca would be good as Chair
- J. Duane nominated R. Taylor for Chair, 2nd'd by N. Sirucek
- Board Discussion re: nomination
- D. Parkington commented that composition of the board has changed since R. Taylor was chair previously
- S. Pickard suggested B. Morse as chair, raised concerns with amount of WSD involvement under R. Taylor's previous stint as chair
- R. Taylor inquired as to the possibility of a co-chair situation or rotating chair
- A. Kmiec commented that a chair with previous experience would be good
- J. Duane restated his motion to nominate R. Taylor as Chair
- Motion approved 7-0
- Board discussion re: separating Vice Chair and Secretary positions
- N. Sirucek made motion to separate Vice Chair and Secretary position, J. Duane 2nd'd
- Motion approved 6-1
- S. Pickard nominated B. Morse as Vice Chair, 2nd'd
- Motion approved 6-1
- A. Kmiec nominated N. Sirucek as Secretary, 2nd'd by S. Pickard
- Motion approved 7-0

Acting Chair Ethan Estey moved to hear the Pesticides agenda item out of order if there was no

objections from the board; no objections were made

Pesticides

- Helen Miranda Wilson gave presentation of the issue of pesticides and what the Town of Wellfleet can do to regulate their use
- Noted that the Conservation Commission and Board of Health can only regulate the use of pesticides on town-owned property
- Provided the SAB with a copy of a pesticides regulation that has been proposed in the town of Orleans, commented on the pros and cons of it (item was included in packet)
- Discussed that the town can do a Home Rule Petition to regulate pesticides further, or can petition State Legislators to take action. Noted that 6 states allow towns to make their own rules re: pesticides, but currently Massachusetts does not
- Board discussion: D. Parkington asked HMW about current pesticide law of “label is the law”, and if town can do stricter enforcement. HMW replied that it is strictly up to the state in Massachusetts. S. Pickard commented that the board needs more information before acting. HMW suggests the SAB could write a letter to the Select Board, and reiterated that a Home Rule Petition or contacting State Legislators are the only real ways to increase enforcement

Update on Chipman's Cove Access

- B. Morse and N. Sirucek both attended the Conservation Commission's meeting/site walk of Chipman's Cove and provided their comments to the board
- B. Morse spoke of Cons Comm's concerns of erosion to the right of the landing and migrating sea grass down to the left by the turn-around. Commented that the Conservation Commission had a meeting at 4pm earlier today (Dec 20th) and discussed the issue of driving on the beach of Chipman's Cove but made no votes on the matter. Commented that there is a map at Town Hall showing a shellfish access road on the beach
- N. Sirucek reiterated what B. Morse said and commented on how Cons Comm seems most concerned about grass migration in the future as a result of sea-level rise and if the area where shellfishermen drive may have to be changed in the future. Noted that Cons Comm raised the prospect of moving the “no driving” at the end of the beach to the left, in the future
- Board members commented that no driving occurs on the beach when the Cove is closed to shellfishing
- D. Parkington suggested the idea of an affidavit for commercial shellfish permit holders regarding conditions for where/how to drive on the beach

Establishing a Plan for Future Regulation Changes

- Board discussion on the proposed form
- Board agreed to bring any suggested changes to our next meeting
- No further action taken on this item

Cultch Plan 2024: Continued Discussion on cultching and site visit

- Board agreed to table this item until the next meeting and to invite the Shellfish Department to speak on it
- No further action taken on this item

Ice Machine

- B. Morse spoke on the progress of the town obtaining an Ice Machine. Noted that he had spoken to the company that installed the Ice Machine at the Provincetown Marina, also spoke with SPAT, the Town Administrator, and the Shellfish Department. Noted that an issue is the availability of the needed electricity supply at the pier (3 phase). Commented that the most likely location would be at the Town Pier past the public restrooms
- It was noted that Grant money that is earmarked for the Ice Machine has to be used by June 30th, meaning that the Ice Machine has to be in the Town's possession by that date
- It was noted that SPAT is also willing to provide money for the project
- Board members asked who will be in charge of maintaining, cleaning, and overseeing the Ice Machine. These still have yet to be determined.
- Board members commented on how Provincetown operates their Ice Machine setup

Future Topics

- Board discussed potential future topics: WSD Job Descriptions, WSD Cultch/Relay programs, WSD Budget review, Cons Comm Chipman's Cove discussion, Potential Regulation Change Form continued, Ice machine update

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 PM